

1. (Amended) A deck system, comprising:

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a deck including a plurality of floor members, each of said floor members formed of wood composite material, and having a top surface, a lower surface, and at least three side walls, [said plurality of floor members being arranged to form a deck, and a portion of one of said at least three side walls of each of said plurality of floor members forming an outer edge of said deck] said deck having an outer edge formed from at least one of the side walls of each of a portion of said floor members; *see fig (3)*

deck support means connected to said lower surface of each of said plurality of floor members for supporting each of said plurality of floor members; and

first facing means [attached to said outer edge and] formed to cover at least a portion of said outer edge, wherein said first facing means is formed of metal. *6/3 line 45 FC2*

8. (Amended) The deck system of Claim [4] 1, wherein said metal is treated with a powder paint material.

9. (Amended.) The deck system of Claim 1, wherein said [deck support means is configured to have a portion visible by a viewer who is positioned away from said deck and is viewing said outer edge, and wherein said] deck system further includes a second facing means, positioned to cover at least a portion of said deck support means.

11. (Amended) The deck system of Claim 10, wherein said [first facing means and said second facing means are each formed of metal, and wherein said] surface finish means is powder paint.

depends on a claim that has been canceled
17. (Amended) The deck system of Claim [11] 12, *canceled.* further including a facing support member attached to said first deck support member and positioned to form a slot [proximate to] between said facing support member and the lower surface of a portion of said plurality of floor members forming said outer edge of said deck, and wherein said first facing means has an outer surface and an inner surface, and a slot member extending away from said inner surface, said slot member being sized to be inserted into and frictionally engage said slot.

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33. (New) A deck system, comprising:

a deck including a plurality of floor members, each of said floor members having a top surface, a lower surface, and at least three side walls, said plurality of floor members being arranged to form a deck, and said deck having an outer edge formed from at least one of the side walls of each of a portion of said floor members;

deck support means connected to said lower surface of each of said plurality of floor members for supporting each of said plurality of floor members;

first facing means formed to cover at least a portion of said outer edge;

second facing means positioned to cover at least a portion of said deck support means,

wherein said first facing means and said second facing means are formed of metal.

34. (New) The deck system of Claim 33, wherein said first facing means and second facing means are coated with a surface finish means for preserving said facing and for presenting a selected exterior color.
35. (New) The deck system of Claim 33, wherein said surface finish means is treatment with powder paint material.
36. (New) The deck system of Claim 33, further comprising a fastening means for connecting said

first facing to said outer edge, and wherein said fastening means includes at least one screw which is inserted through said first facing means into at least one of said side walls of one of said floor members forming a portion of said outer edge.
37. (New) The deck system of Claim 33, wherein said deck support means includes a first deck support member positioned proximate a portion of said outer edge, and further including a facing support member attached to said first deck support member and positioned to form a slot between said lower surface of one of said floor members

forming said portion of the outer edge of said deck, and wherein said first facing means has an outer surface and an inner surface, and a slot member extending away from said inner surface, said slot member being sized to be inserted into and frictionally engage said slot.

38. (New) The deck system of Claim 1, further including railing means positionable along said outer edge to inhibit movement of people over said outer edge of said deck floor, said railing means including

first and second posts connected to said deck; and

first and second horizontal cross members, each of said cross members

having a first end connected to said first post and a second end

connected to said second post, said cross members being formed of metal.

39. (New) The deck system of Claim 38, wherein said first facing means and each of said cross members is coated with a surface finish means for preserving said facing and for presenting a selected exterior color.

40. (New) The deck system of Claim 39, further comprising at least one additional horizontal cross member formed of metal.

41. (New) The deck system of Claim 38, wherein said first and second horizontal cross members each have a first end and a second end and are connected to said first post and said second post by an attachment means, said attachment means including, for each of said cross members, two slots formed and sized to fit said first and second ends of said cross member, and wherein said first and second ends are inserted into and frictionally engage said slots.

42. (New) The deck system of Claim 1, further including railing means positionable along said outer edge to inhibit movement of people over said outer edge of said deck floor, said railing means including
- first post and second post connected to said deck; and
 - a lower and an upper horizontal cross member, each cross member connected to said first post and said second post, and
 - a plurality of balusters, each baluster having a first end connected to said lower cross member and
 - a second end connected to said upper cross member, said balusters being formed from metal.
43. (New) The deck system of Claim 42, wherein said balusters are connected to said cross members by inserting the first end of each of said balusters in a slot formed in said lower cross member, and by inserting the second end of each of said balusters in a slot formed in said upper cross member.
44. (New) The deck system of Claim 42, wherein said balusters and said first facing means are each coated with a surface finish means for preserving said first facing means and said balusters and for presenting a selected exterior color.
45. (New) The deck system of Claim 42, wherein said balusters and said first facing means are each coated with a surface finish including powder paint.
46. (New) The deck system of Claim 42, further comprising a second facing means also being formed from metal, wherein said second facing means is positioned to cover at least a portion of said deck support means.



CLEAN VERSION PENDING CLAIMS

I claim:

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1. (Amended). A deck system, comprising:

a deck including a plurality of floor members, each of said floor members formed of wood composite material, and having a top surface, a lower surface, and at least three side walls, said deck having an outer edge formed from at least one of the side walls of each of a portion of said floor members;

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deck support means connected to said lower surface of each of said plurality of floor members for supporting each of said plurality of floor members; and

first facing means formed to cover at least a portion of said outer edge, wherein said first facing means is formed of metal.

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5. The deck system of Claim 4, wherein said metal is aluminum.
 6. The deck system of Claim 1, wherein said first facing means is coated with a surface finish means for preserving said facing and for presenting a selected exterior color.
 7. The deck system of Claim 6, wherein said surface finish means has a color selected to coordinate with the color of other elements of said deck.

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(Amended) The deck system of Claim 1, wherein said metal is treated with a powder paint material.

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9. (Amended) The deck system of Claim 1, wherein said deck system further includes a second facing means, positioned to cover at least a portion of said deck support means.

10. The deck system of Claim 9, wherein said first facing means and said second facing means are each coated with surface finish means for preserving said facing and for presenting a selected exterior color.

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(Amended) The deck system of Claim 10, wherein said surface finish means is powder paint.

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(Amended.) The deck system of Claim 12, further including a facing support member attached to said first deck support member and positioned to form a slot between said facing support member and the lower surface of a portion of said plurality of floor members forming said outer edge of said deck, and wherein said first facing means has an outer surface and an inner surface, and a slot member extending away from said inner surface, said slot member being sized to be inserted into and frictionally engage said slot.

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(New) A deck system, comprising:

a deck including a plurality of floor members, each of said floor members having a top surface, a lower surface, and at least three side walls, said plurality of floor members being arranged to form a deck, and said deck having an outer edge

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formed from at least one of the side walls of each of a portion of said floor members;

deck support means connected to said lower surface of each of said plurality of floor members for supporting each of said plurality of floor members;

first facing means formed to cover at least a portion of said outer edge;

second facing means positioned to cover at least a portion of said deck support means,

wherein said first facing means and said second facing means are formed of metal.

34. (New) The deck system of Claim 33, wherein said first facing means and second facing means are coated with a surface finish means for preserving said facing and for presenting a selected exterior color.

35. (New) The deck system of Claim 33, wherein said surface finish means is treatment with powder paint material.

36. (New) The deck system of Claim 33, further comprising a fastening means for connecting said

first facing to said outer edge, and wherein said fastening means includes at least one screw which is inserted through said first facing means into at least one of said side walls of one of said floor members forming a portion of said outer edge.

37. (New) The deck system of Claim 33, wherein said deck support means includes a first deck support member positioned proximate a portion of said outer edge, and further including a facing support member attached to said first deck support member and positioned to form a slot between said lower surface of one of said floor members forming said portion of the outer edge of said deck, and wherein said first facing means has an outer surface and an inner surface, and a slot member extending away from said

inner surface, said slot member being sized to be inserted into and frictionally engage said slot.

38. (New) The deck system of Claim 1, further including railing means positionable along said outer edge to inhibit movement of people over said outer edge of said deck floor, said railing means including

first and second posts connected to said deck; and

first and second horizontal cross members, each of said cross members

having a first end connected to said first post and a second end

connected to said second post, said cross members being formed of metal.

39. (New) The deck system of Claim 38, wherein said first facing means and each of said cross members is coated with a surface finish means for preserving said facing and for presenting a selected exterior color.

40. (New) The deck system of Claim 39, further comprising at least one additional horizontal cross member formed of metal.

41. (New) The deck system of Claim 38, wherein said first and second horizontal cross members each have a first end and a second end and are connected to said first post and said second post by an attachment means, said attachment means including, for each of said cross members, two slots formed and sized to fit said first and second ends of said cross member, and wherein said first and second ends are inserted into and frictionally engage said slots.

42. (New) The deck system of Claim 1, further including railing means positionable along said outer edge to inhibit movement of people over said outer edge of said deck floor, said railing means including

first post and second post connected to said deck; and

a lower and an upper horizontal cross member, each cross member connected to

said first post and said second post, and

a plurality of balusters, each baluster having a first end connected to said lower cross member and

a second end connected to said upper cross member, said balusters being formed from metal.

43. (New) The deck system of Claim 42, wherein said balusters are connected to said cross members by inserting the first end of each of said balusters in a slot formed in said lower cross member, and by inserting the second end of each of said balusters in a slot formed in said upper cross member.

44. (New) The deck system of Claim 42, wherein said balusters and said first facing means are each coated with a surface finish means for preserving said first facing means and said balusters and for presenting a selected exterior color.

45. (New) The deck system of Claim 42, wherein said balusters and said first facing means are each coated with a surface finish including powder paint.

46. (New) The deck system of Claim 42, further comprising a second facing means also being formed from metal, wherein said second facing means is positioned to cover at least a portion of said deck support means.

47. (New) The deck system of Claim 46, wherein said first facing means and said second facing means and each of said balusters are coated with a surface finish for presenting a selected exterior color.

48. (New) The deck system of Claim 46, wherein each of said first facing means, second facing means, and each of said balusters is coated with a surface finish including powder paint.